our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Winter 1987

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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League Santa visits with a fourfooted friend.

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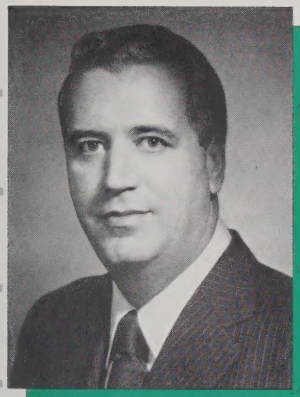


Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A NEW THREAT TO SMALL CREATURES

In our constant and continuing effort to bring humane concern and protection to all creatures great and small, the League has recently introduced several new bills in the Massachusetts Legislature for the forthcoming session.

Among our concerns is a bill adding a new section to the Massachusetts cruelty law entitled "An act prohibiting the use of glue-type trap devices."

Trapping any animal in any device is a very stressful experience at best. In this case, it is a cruel and gruesome technique that disregards all the tortures of cruel treatment. It is possible that those who use "Glue Traps" try to excuse the suffering since the traps are used to catch mice and similar type rodents who do not receive the compassion usually accorded to various pet animals.

The glue traps are often the size of cookie sheets filled with a glue-type substance that is so sticky that the animal becomes trapped in it the moment it steps on the tray. In some cases, the disabled creatures are left to starve and in other instances they are beaten, drowned or suffocate when their face becomes stuck in the glue. It is a hideous sight to see animals caught in this fashion who go into such a frantic struggle in a hopeless attempt to free themselves.

There is no question that rodents such as mice can become a serious nuisance and possible health hazard when they infest homes and buildings, but there are other, more humane techniques to control such problems.

Another problem is the fact that "glue traps" are non-selective and, because of the extremely sticky nature of the glue, they trap other animals such as cats, kittens, small dogs and birds.

A further application of the same type of glue trap is to put it on window ledges and other places where birds are apt to land. Here they are often left to die of starvation or exposure in a helpless and hopeless sort of slow but certain death.

Do such animals deserve such a miserable death even though they may be considered a nuisance by many of those who come in contact with them? We think not! And that is why we have filed legislation to stop their sale and use.

We will keep you informed on the progress of this and other legislation as the year ahead unfolds.

Aquila, the Golden Eagle.

New England Wildlife

A Haven in Hingham

Uniquely equipped by nature to survive in their normal habitat, wild animals belong just where they are—in the wild. Now and then, however, this normal state of events is disrupted, sometimes by natural disasters but more frequently by human ignorance or aggression. When this happens, temporary human intervention is required to correct the situation.

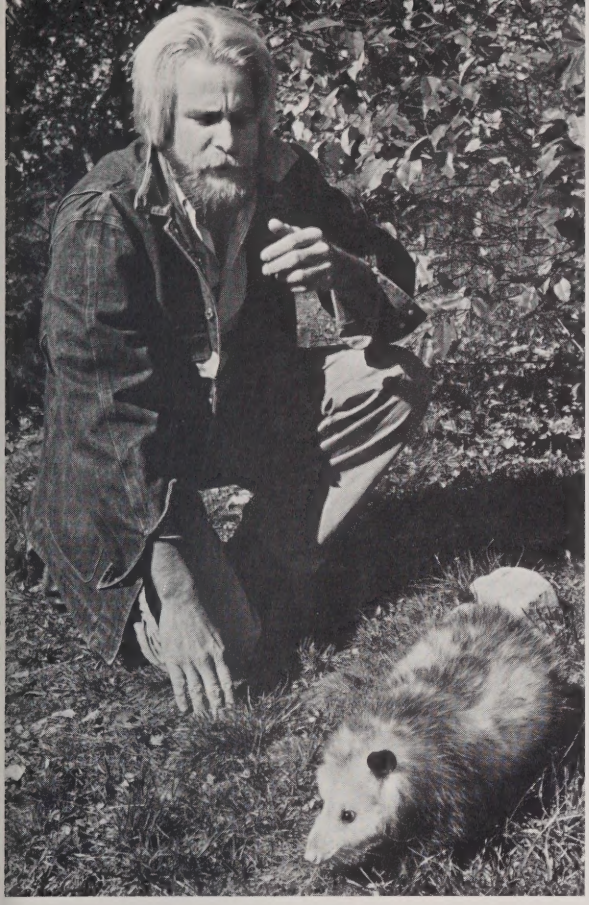
The New England Wildlife Center in Hingham, Massachusetts was founded in 1983 by Vaughan R. Pratt, D.V.M. to provide such assistance for wild creatures of all species that have been injured or orphaned by human activity. Opened initially as a facility for diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and release of wildlife displaced or affected adversely by humans, the Center's scope has since expanded to include education programs to increase public awareness of wildlife-related issues.

"We are a wildlife center, not a sanctuary," emphasizes Rick Horton, environmental educator and program director, a distinction that is stressed by the entire staff. "Well-meaning people often bring in animals that are perfectly healthy and should have been left alone," explains field biologist Vicky Smythe. "Because people are 'wildlife ignorant,' they assume that any small creature is an abandoned baby that needs care, which is not necessarily true." Dr. Pratt sums up the Center's philosophy succinctly: "If it's wild, put it back. When in doubt, leave an animal alone." The Center welcomes telephone inquiries from people who are in doubt, he adds.

In 1986, more than 1,500 animals received medical treatment at the Center, brought there from nearly 100 different communities in Massachusetts and elsewhere in New England. Injured animals, ranging from hawks, owls and songbirds to mammals such as foxes, weasels and raccoons, are brought to the Center for treatment and rehabilitation by animal control officers, concerned individuals and humane organizations like the Animal Rescue League of Boston which are involved in animal rescue efforts.

The Center currently consists of two facilities, an admitting clinic on Route 3A, where wildlife is received from the public, and an administration and education center, located in the former Naval Ammunition Depot adjacent to Bear Cove Park in Hingham. A 9,000 sq. ft. ammunition storage warehouse on this large wooded site, vacant since W.W. II, is currently being renovated into a modern wildlife hospital and study facility. PREHAB (PRE-release HABitat and study center), as it will be called, will house wildlife diagnostic, treatment, laboratory, surgery and recovery facilities, as well as indoor/outdoor natural habitat enclosures designed to

Ring-billed gull with a wing injury is examined by field biologist Vicky Smythe.



Environmental educator Rick Horton "plays possum."

Founder, Dr. Vaughan Pratt, checks the progress of a short-eared owl with damaged feathers.

accommodate the special needs of a variety of wild birds and mammals during their stay, and allow them to be viewed for education purposes in a non-obtrusive manner. The Center also has a special bird rearing facility where young birds are nurtured with the aid of incubators and even surrogate mothers, and several aviaries for test flights prior to release.

In one such facility, a huge 6,000 sq. ft. aviary, two great horned owls are currently testing their wings in preparation for release. The younger owl, brought in almost dead after being thrown out of its nest, was quickly adopted by the older one, which was brought in from Otis Air Force Base where it had been caught up and injured by a kite string. Other current guests include a Marsh Hawk with a bullet wound, a raccoon hit by a car and several others orphaned, a ring-billed gull with an injured wing, and four short-eared owls from Nantucket, members of an endangered species, who are recovering from feather damage. The owls, like other birds at the facility, will be banded on their release to allow identification and tracking.

While the goal is to return all animals to the wild, this happy outcome is not always possible. An orphaned possum, for example, which was rehabilitated over the winter, lost its ability to play dead, which is its major defense mechanism in the wild. "We knew we couldn't possibly release it, so now it's part of our education program," notes Rick Horton. Another long-term guest that is now being trained for classroom appearances is a five-year-old Golden Eagle named "Aquila," brought to New England Wildlife from the Missouri Raptor Rehabilitation Program after suffering a permanent wing injury.

Education programs are provided at the Center for elementary school children in Hingham, but in a much larger sense, education is at the core of every activity at the Center. "Every time a person walks in the door with an animal, we take the opportunity to talk with them and educate them concerning the needs of wildlife," says Dr. Pratt.

A member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, the New England Wildlife Center holds both state and federal wildlife rehabilitation permits and works in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state departments of fish and wildlife throughout the northeast.

Words to the Wise about Wildlife

The following pointers are offered by the New England Wildlife Center to guide persons who are in doubt about what to do for an apparently orphaned or injured wild animal:

- Don't assume that a young animal alone has been orphaned. Many mothers, especially rabbits and squirrels, leave their young alone for long periods, returning only for feeding. Many times these animals are actually "orphaned" by the actions of well-intentioned people who remove them from their nests.
- If you have to chase an animal, if it is well enough to run or fly, then chances are it is not hurt seriously enough to need medical attention. The very act of capture is so stressful that it can create a more serious medical problem.
- If an animal is definitely orphaned (you have seen the dead mother) or seriously injured, it should be taken to a wildlife treatment facility.
- Don't worry about what to feed an injured animal. Sick animals usually don't want to eat. Also, wild creatures have varied diets. All birds, for example, don't necessarily eat bird seed or bread crumbs. Some eat insects, others eat worms.
- Handle an injured animal as little as possible, and never try to pet a wild creature. Petting can be extremely stressful to a wild animal—a baby rabbit, for example, can actually die of fright from being petted.
- An injured animal should be placed in a box, and kept dark, quiet and warm until you can bring it in for medical treatment.

For assistance or advice, contact:
New England Wildlife Center, Inc.
146A Justice Cushing Way
Hingham, Massachusetts 02043
(617) 749-1248

They play on the radio almost constantly at this time of year. Hardly a newspaper or magazine page can be turned without seeing one. "They" are the fur product advertisements and this is the bread and butter season for fur producers as well as retail stores that sell these furs. Thousands of advertising dollars are spent to promote the sale of fur coats and to advertise the supposed status/prestige that owning a fur can bring to one's life.

A FURRY CONFLICT

By Terrie Bierig-Neyland

The *Wall Street Journal,* December 1986, reported that the fur industry was enjoying an increase in sales unmatched since the 1920's. This boon was attributed to the success of a new class of customer. The fur coat is no longer, stereotypically, the gift that only a wealthy man can afford to give his wife. Young, financially independent business women have been catered to by the fashion industry with this new product, the "affordable" fur coat, ranging in price from $3,000 to $15,000. Presumably, for women the appeal of this market is the ability to demonstrate independence and wealth through such a purchase.

The international fur industry is a multi-billion dollar power in the world economy and a useful political tool. The *Wall Street Journal,* October 1987, reported that United States mink farmers are facing the threat of a "Russian invasion." The Reagan administration is presently bargaining with Russia to end the "36-year-old embargo on Soviet furs" in exchange for sales of U.S. machinery to the Soviet Union. Needless to say, the importation of the less expensive, high quality Soviet furs would seriously threaten the U.S. fur industry. The ability of the U.S. government to use the promise of accepting fur imports as a bargaining chip in such a trade with the Soviet Union is a direct indication of the great financial and political strength supporting the fur trade.

Animal welfare and anti-fur organizations opposing the use of fur-bearing animals for vanity satisfaction are facing a powerful oppo-

nent. The most promising international attempt by animal welfare groups to fight the fur industry took place on May 29, 1987 and was engineered by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). Michael O'Sullivan, Canadian Field Representative for WSPA, reported that "delegates from 17 nations journeyed to Versailles under the banner of WSPA." The delegates represented "the most influential and respected animal protection organizations in the world." As a result of this meeting, the Versailles Agreement was born and the "international campaign to end the cruelty of the fur trade" began.

Public humane education is the most effective, long-term solution toward ending the use of fur-bearing animals as a source of status achievement and vanity satisfaction. Animal welfare groups overwhelmingly support the theory that people will not buy fur products if they are educated to their very non-glamorous side: fur production. Proving this theory is the purpose of the Versailles Agreement.

In order to be made into a fur coat, fur-bearing animals must first be caught and/or killed. Wild, fur-bearing animals are trapped by means of the steel-jaw leg hold trap or, for small animals, the conibear trap which snaps down to crush the animal's head or back. Use of the leg hold trap is restricted by law in Massachusetts to a "water set," which requires the trap to be set deep enough to cause drowning of the trapped animal in a "sufficient amount of time." The traps are also allowed for "pest control" on private property if used in or under buildings.

The League is strongly opposed to the trapping of fur-bearing animals under *any* conditions. It is extremely inhumane to take the life of an animal by means of crushing its limbs in the jaws of a steel trap where it remains, suffering and unprotected, until the trapper comes to **finish** killing it. It is no more humane to trap an animal under the water where it is held, struggling until it drowns.

Other fur-bearing animals, most commonly mink, are "farmed" and then killed to obtain their fur. As the wild populations of fur-bearing animals were depleted and the demand for their pelts increased, fur ranches became a viable solution to the supply problem. Fur ranches are a frequent target of animal welfare organizations and anti-fur groups as the conditions that animals are raised in and the manner in which they are slaughtered (to prevent harm to the coat) are often considered questionable if not blatantly inhumane. Fur ranches and the breeding and slaughtering of animals for use as fashion statements represent an unconscionable misuse and exploitation of animal life.

In order to end the killing of millions of wild and ranch-raised fur-bearing animals, the public must not purchase the products made from these animals. Authentic fur coats and products are non-essential "extras" in the lives of consumers who purchase them. It *is* possible to be fashionable and also support the production of fashionable clothing and accessories through nonviolent means. As Cleveland Amory, author of *Man Kind?* suggests, "Real People Wear Fake Furs." Fake furs are far less expensive than real furs and do not require the taking of animal lives in their production. For every fur coat purchased an average of forty animals must be killed to produce a replacement coat. Of course, that number can increase or decrease, depending on the style and fur type used. If the market for fur products disappears, so, too, will the producers and the animal slaughter.

Michael O'Sullivan of WSPA best summarizes the hopes of all persons concerned with the prevention of cruelty to fur-bearing animals:

"Wearing fur is a moral issue. We are certain that once people have all the facts before them, they will soon put conscience ahead of commerce."

A Quarter Century of Caring

Front-line Perspective

On January 6, 1961, Fred Clark joined the Animal Rescue League staff as clerk in the lost and found department in Boston, after having worked ten years with the New Haven Railroad. "The man who hired me brought me to the shelter admitting office and said 'Wait here, I'll be right back'," he recalls. "And I've been here ever since!"

Over a period of almost twenty-seven years, Fred Clark has served as lost and found clerk, kennel master, and clerk-dispatcher for shelter and rescue operations, always on the front line dealing with the public, and the first to meet and greet generations of animals that have found shelter at the League. His position offered a unique perspective of developments at the League for over a quarter of a century, and his retirement on December 4, 1987 provided an opportunity to reminisce, and to realize how much things change, and yet how much they remain the same.

Each year, Fred plays Santa to area police horses.

When Fred joined the staff, the Chandler Street headquarters in Boston had been opened just four years earlier, and most of the staff had come from the League's former facilities on Carver Street and Albany Street. In those days the League acted as dog officer for the City of Boston and as a result the number of stray and lost dogs brought in daily was much higher than it is today. "If a missing dog hadn't been stolen or kidnapped, chances are it would turn up here," he recalls. "We'd call the police, call hospitals, track down rabies tags—do everything possible to trace a dog's owner."

While veterinarians assessed the health of any dog being given up, agents were likely to play a strong role in evaluating an animal's temperament to determine whether or not it was adoptable. "I would evaluate the people who were giving an animal up, ask them why and then figure out whether they were telling the truth or not. Sometimes people lie in order to save an animal, but it's not fair to anyone," he explains. He well remembers a beautiful collie that was given up by a woman who said she didn't have room for it, even though she lived in a large house in the suburbs. "The dog was adopted out, and returned again one day later. It liked to chase bicycles and had bitten a child riding a bike. If she had told the truth, we could have warned the new owner and prevented the problem. As a result of her lie, the dog was returned and the owner was involved in a lawsuit."

One of the major changes he has observed over the years occurred a few years ago when the City of Boston opened its animal control department and shelter, and the League no longer served as the city pound for strays. "Today, the emphasis is on increased adoptions. Animals are healthier because there is less chance of infection from stray dogs. Another thing that has improved health is the mixing of dogs and cats together in the newly renovated shelter facilities."

A second major factor altering the League's activities over the past years has been the housing situation. "Landlords have practically put us out of the dog business," he says. With the increased popularity of small apartments, and wall-to-wall carpeting, cats have outpaced dogs as the most popular pets. "The placement of cats in new homes is now higher than I've ever seen it."

Fred Clark has comforted generations of animals in the shelter admitting area.

While moving to a new apartment where the landlord doesn't allow pets is still one of the major reasons why people give up pets, Fred has noticed a recent increased trend in owners placing the blame on allergies. "When someone says they are giving up an animal because of an allergy, I ask them how long they owned it. When they say seven years, you have to wonder—but who am I to question a doctor?" he shrugs. Another pet peeve is people who want a cute kitten, but lose interest when it grows into an adult cat. "People bring cats in and ask us to place them on a farm. Have you seen any farms around here lately?" he asks.

Today, all animal rescue and emergency calls are also dispatched from Fred's area. "We get calls about animals in distress from all over the state, and we'll go anywhere to help—Ashland or Timbuktu," he stresses.

Despite the fact that his career has spanned the period from the turbulent yet idealistic 60's to the affluent 80's, the one thing that has not changed, according to this veteran humane worker, is basic human nature. "I see the same degree of caring—most people are basically kind, and they still cry when they have to give up an animal." And the young people who enter the field are as idealistic as ever. "All of the young people who come here to work just love animals. One of the hardest things for them to adjust to is the realization that we can't save every one of them." He is particularly proud of the fact that years ago he suggested the current practice of waiting a few days to evaluate an animal for adoption, to allow it time to adjust to its new surroundings. "You have to realize that an animal is panic stricken at first—it doesn't know what happened. One minute it's following its master around in its own parlor, and the next thing it knows its master is gone, and it's in a cage, surrounded by strange dogs and cats, all barking and meowing."

For a quarter of a century, Fred has demonstrated an unwavering knack for getting along with animals and dealing with the general public; but, of the two, he has most enjoyed his interactions with the animals. Why is that? He smiles: "Because they don't talk back!"

For the past several years, this amiable friend of animals has played the appropriate role of Santa Claus at the League's annual Christmas Dinner for Horses. This year he will give his final performance as Santa on Friday, December 18, delivering horse feed, carrots and other treats to the working horses of Boston.

Pets fo

A Tradition of C

League mascot "Moose" is calling all dogs.

Countless dogs find

Alan Cunningham, shelter manager, sends a kitten home with new owner William Burns of Dorchester.

Barn supervisor Kathleen Delaney has no problem leading a horse to food!

Since 1907 when League founder Anna Harris Smith established the Pine Ridge Home of Rest for Horses on a large wooded site in Dedham, the facility that is now known as the Pine Ridge Animal Center has served as a haven for larger animals, and a final resting place for small pets buried in the Pine Ridge Cemetery for Small Animals.

With the opening of the League's Safford Memorial Animal Shelter in February, 1986, the Pine Ridge facility entered an exciting new chapter in its long humane tradition. Located at 238 Pine Street, the Safford Shelter is the first new adoption shelter opened by the League since 1966.

In its first year and a half of operation, the shelter has placed approximately 2,000 dogs, cats and miscellaneous pets in new homes, in communities south and west of Boston. Response from the neighbors and the community has been excellent, according to shelter manager Alan W. Cunningham. Public awareness of the facility has also benefited greatly from the Dedham Transcript's inauguration earlier this year of a regular "Pet of the Week" feature, presenting photos of animals that are currently available for adoption.

"The rural setting and the wooded, natural environment make Pine Ridge an attractive place to visit, and to work in," he notes. On the 22-acre site is a newly-restored colonial barn which serves as a home for large farm animals in need of shelter, creating an atmosphere and a daily routine that is quite distinct from the League's other shelters. Current guests in the barn include three horses, two ponies, and a burro.

"One of the nicest aspects of working here is that, because of the small rural setting, everyone gets to do everything—you have a chance to become a jack of all trades," Cunningham explains.

A typical day at the shelter begins

ption
ng in Dedham

at Dedham shelter.

Kathleen French of Milford adopts a basset hound to surprise her three children.

A pup looks his best after a brush and style by Jeanette Bider.

at about 8 a.m. when shelter assistant Jeanette Bider and assistant manager Leslie Wilcox appear with breakfast and fresh water for the puppies, kittens, and older dogs and cats eagerly awaiting their arrival. Meanwhile, barn supervisor Kathleen Delaney attends to the feeding and grooming needs of the barn animals, afterwards taking them out to exercise in large, grassy paddock areas.

Indoors, the shelter's two mascots, "Moose" and "Handsome," stray cats that charmed the staff into adopting them, watch intently as dogs are moved to outside runs and cats are shifted around so that all cages can be cleaned, disinfected and sanitized. Next, the outdoor runs are cleaned, so that by 10 a.m. everything is presentable and the animals are ready for their first visitors. Adoption hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. On any given day, persons wishing to adopt a pet are likely to find twenty to thirty cats, and ten to twelve dogs of all types and sizes to choose from, as well as a selection of small pets such as hamsters, gerbils, rabbits and guinea pigs.

All animals are examined by a veterinarian prior to being put up for adoption, and a veterinarian visits the shelter regularly to handle any health problems that may arise. While most of the animals sheltered at Pine Ridge are brought in from nearby communities, dogs are sometimes transferrred to the Dedham facility from the Boston shelter if it is felt that they are likely to be happier in a rural setting, rather than the city.

"We have a wide assortment of truly appealing and nice animals here waiting for new homes, and I'd like to invite people to come in if they are interested in adopting a pet, or just drop by for a visit to meet their new fourfooted neighbors in a beautiful, tranquil setting," Alan Cunningham says.

Leslie Wilcox, assistant manager, poses with two buddies.

ANNUAL FAIR '87

A Veterinary Update

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

Feline Urologic Syndrome and Diet

Male cats suffering from a severe form of the Feline Urologic Syndrome (F.U.S.) are unable to pass urine because of a blockage or obstruction in the urinary canal. Early warning signs of F.U.S. include irritability and restlessness, blood in the urine, frequent trips to the litter box, and urinating in unaccustomed places around the house. Most cats respond well to prompt medical or surgical treatment directed at the cause of the symptoms, but recurrence of the problem within a few months or less is quite common.

While the exact cause of F.U.S. has not been determined, studies have indicated that diet is an important factor in preventing its recurrence. Without a dietary prevention program, in fact, it has been estimated that 70% of affected cats will have a recurrence. Since excessive magnesium intake has been associated with F.U.S. recurrence, a diet that is low in magnesium is recommended for cats with a history of this problem. Magnesium is one of the minerals contained in ash, leading to some confusion among cat owners concerning the advisability of low ash diets. A low ash cat food may, or may not, be low in magnesium content.

People also frequently inquire about whether a diet of dry cat food contributes to the problem. While dry cat food is not necessarily higher in magnesium content than moist food, it is usually lower in calories. Therefore a cat eats more to meet its calorie requirements, thus increasing the amount of magnesium consumed and excreted in its urine.

There are several excellent low magnesium diet foods specially formulated for cats with F.U.S. Your veterinarian can advise you on which diet is the best for your pet. For those whose pets prefer home cooking, here is a recipe for a tasty mineral-restricted meal for your feline friend.

A Low Mineral Meal for Cats

1 lb. regular ground beef, cooked
1/4 lb. liver (beef, chicken or pork only), cooked
1 cup cooked white rice
1 teaspoon vegetable oil
1 teaspoon calcium carbonate (sources: ground egg shells, drug and health food stores)

A brand name balanced supplement which fulfills the feline minimum daily requirement for all vitamins and trace minerals.

Combine all ingredients. Yield: 1-3/4 lbs.

Approximate Daily Feeding: Body Weight:

5 lb. – 1/5 lb.
7-8 lb. – 1/4 lb.
10 lb. – 1/3 lb.

Hyperthyroidism in Cats

Hyperthyroidism is a common endocrine disorder which occurs most often in older cats. It develops when the thyroid gland produces an overabundance of two hormones: thyroxine and triiodothyronine.

The most common symptoms of the disease include weight loss, increased appetite, hyperactivity, excessive urination, and cardiovascular problems. A cat may have difficulty in breathing or hyperventilate when resting, and may exhibit behavioral changes or have an unkempt appearance with excessive shedding and hair matting. A veterinarian must make the diagnosis with the aid of laboratory testing and physical examination, which usually reveals an enlarged thyroid gland.

The most frequent cause of hyperthyroidism is a benign tumor located in one or both lobes of the thyroid gland. While a malignant tumor, or cancer, frequently causes this problem in dogs, it is seldom found in cats. The most effective treatment for hyperthyroidism is to remove the benign tumor that is causing it by means of surgery.

For cats that are poor candidates for surgery because of age or other complications, there are two alternative treatments. Radioactive iodine can be used to dissolve the tumor, but the dosage must be carefully monitored and the procedure is only done in certain specialized facilities. Another approach is antithyroid drug therapy which can lower the hormone levels, but does not eliminate the cause of the condition which will return if the medication is discontinued.

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

Photo by John Blanding, courtesy of Boston Globe.

DUCKS RESCUED FROM MUDDY RIVER OIL SPILL

League agent Carol McCarthy holds one of 19 oil-covered ducks rescued from the Muddy River in Brookline after an oil spill in early November. Several League staff members were at the scene after a 4,500-gallon oil delivery for New England Baptist Hospital was pumped into the wrong pipe and poured into the river, endangering animal and plant life. The ducks were examined by the League veterinarian, and sent to New England Wildlife Center where they were cleaned and later released.

PETS VISIT PATIENTS AT ILLINOIS HOSPITAL

The Swedish-American Hospital in Rockland, Illinois has inaugurated a "Pet Visiting Area" where patients can be perked up by visits from their special fourfooted friends. The novel idea was the result of a suggestion by a hospital nurse who thought visits from their pets might speed recovery, especially for young or elderly patients, according to a report in *Pets 'n' People*. A three-year-old Newfoundland, whose owner was in the hospital having a baby, was the first canine visitor in the new area.

SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO CRUELTY CASE

When League inspectors were called to investigate a report last May of "a very skinny pit bull" at the home of a woman in Roxbury, they arrived at the house within the hour only to find that the dog had already died of starvation. It was chained in a fenced-in yard, without food, water or shelter. The League took the case to court, charging the woman with cruelty to animals. At first she claimed the dog was a stray that she had stopped feeding after she realized it was a pit bull. In court, however, it was made evident that she had owned the dog for years and had simply stopped feeding her own pet. She admitted to sufficient facts for a guilty finding and, in November, was given one year probation, a $200 fine, and forbidden to have any animals during her probation.

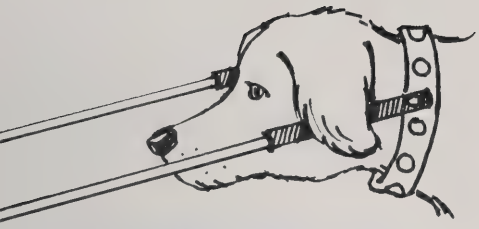
YOUNG EAGLES TAKE WING IN RESTORATION EFFORT

Eight young bald eagles were released this summer after being raised at the Quabbin Reservoir as part of the Massachusetts Eagle Restoration Project, a six-year program headed by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and underwritten by the Bank of Boston. A total of 35 young eagles have now been reared and released, in the hope that they will return to Massachusetts to breed when they reach sexual maturity at the age of five, and thus become the first eagles to nest in the Commonwealth since 1905.

The birds are being monitored with the aid of radio-telemetry devices attached to their tail feathers. Eagles will continue to be raised and released in this restoration effort until 1989, or until the first natural nest is established in the state.

A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Several new legislative proposals sponsored by the League are currently under consideration by the Massachusetts Legislature. In addition to the bill which would prohibit the use of glue-type trap devices, described by League president Arthur Slade on page 3, the League has filed bills that would allow the League to obtain search warrants, or enter without a warrant in emergency situations, premises where fighting birds, dogs or other animals are kept, and a bill to further protect guard dogs by allowing court prosecution of guard dog establishments that violate Department of Agriculture laws. The League has also refiled a bill proposed last year that would require the licensing and inspection of animal pounds.

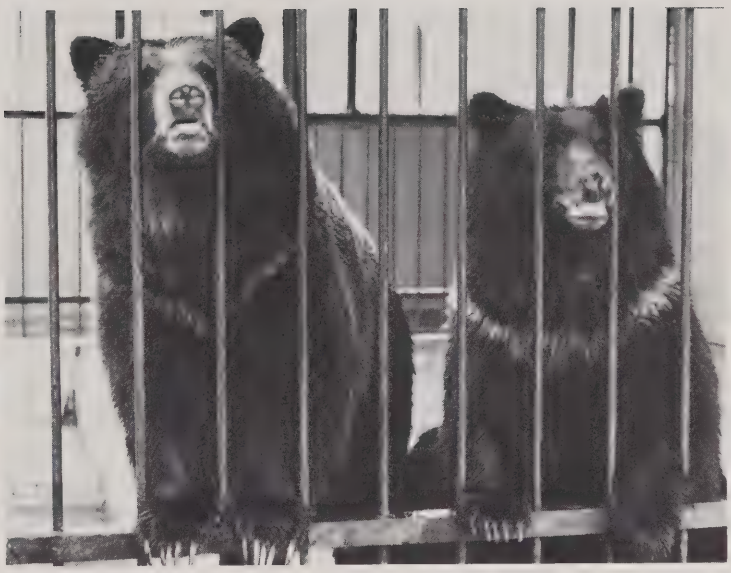


AN AID FOR BLIND PETS

An article in the latest issue of the American Humane Association's *Advocate* describes a creative aid devised by the owner of a blind dog that may be of interest to other owners of pets with failing sight. When Richard Ettelson's ten-year-old dog "Cinder" lost her sight two years ago, her owner created a "cane" to help her get around without bumping into things and injuring herself. The device consists of two semi-rigid plastic rods that are mounted to the dog's collar. The "canes" extend past the nose on either side of the head making the dog feel a slight pressure against its collar and hear a scraping sound when it's about to walk into something. Ettelson was also able to train the dog to use the cane to detect stairs or other sharp drops, by lowering her head to touch the canes on the floor when approaching a drop-off. Further information on constructing the collar can be obtained by writing to: Richard Ettelson, Box 54C, Waiteville, West Virginia 24984.

LEAGUE ALUMNUS TO TRAIN HEARING DOGS

"Trevor," a purebred sheltie who was given up to the League by his former owners last February, was adopted and trained by Melanie Stilson of the Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center in Stow, Mass. He is now a trained hearing dog and will join Ms. Stilson, who is a trainer at the Center, in conducting demonstrations and training programs for persons with hearing impairments who adopt dogs specially trained to assist them in responding to sounds.



ANIMALS AUCTIONED AS "WILD ANIMAL" FARM CLOSES

Sixty-five years and four owners after its opening in 1922, New England Playworld—formerly Benson's Wild Animal Park—closed this past fall. The animal residents of the New Hampshire park, along with their cages, equipment and buildings, were auctioned off to the highest bidders on October 23. League law enforcement officers attended the auction in order to familiarize themselves with the animals and their new owners. Animals were purchased by animal brokers, as well as private individuals and owners of animal "acts," so that their final destinations are uncertain. The USDA will distribute a list of the purchasers so that officials in the states to which animals are taken can investigate their situations. The League, of course, is prepared to follow up on any animals that are brought to Massachusetts.

CURRENT MOVIES

The American Humane Association has established the following motion picture classification standards to provide a reliable and serviceable film guide for parents and others interested in assessing the impact of a given film.

Acceptable: American Humane was on location to monitor animal action and to ensure humane treatment. Scenes appearing to endanger animals are simulated.

Believed Acceptable: The Association was not on location to monitor animal action, but after screening or script review, American Humane representatives concluded the film producer complied with Association standards and intentions.

Questionable: American Humane personnel not on the scene. Animal action and treatment is in doubt.

Unacceptable: Outright cruelty to animals during production.

Acceptable:

Hanoi Hilton, Cannon Films.
Lost Boys, Warner Brothers.
Pretty in Pink, Paramount Pictures
Project X, 20th Century
Summer School, Paramount Pictures.
Walk Like A Man, MGM/UA Communications Co.
Who's That Girl, MGM/UA Communications Co.

Believed Acceptable:

Harry and the Hendersons, Universal Pictures.
Dudes, New Century/Vista.
La Bamba, Columbia Pictures.
Scared Stiff, International Film Marketing.
The Secret of My Success, Universal Pictures.

Questionable:

Angel Heart, Tri Star Pictures.

Unacceptable:

Faces of Death, Part I and II, Jaffer Ali, Maljack Productions (Video Cassette Only).

Preparing for Christmas with the Wilsons

Karen and her parents woke up early on the Saturday before Christmas. They had a special project to start on this cold, snowy, winter day. They were finally going to put up their Christmas tree. Karen could hardly wait! She thought Christmas would never come, and now it was almost here!

Karen and her Dad, Mr. Wilson, put on their winter coats and hats, mittens and boots. They were going outside into the snow to bring in their Christmas tree. Waldo, Karen's dog, wanted to go outside too, so Karen attached a leash to Waldo's collar and started outside.

"Wait a minute, Karen," said Mr. Wilson. "I just spread *rock salt* on the walkway outside so that we wouldn't slip on the ice. That salt might bother Waldo's paws. Do you remember what the *veterinarian* told us?"

"Yes," answered Karen. "She said that we should put *petroleum jelly* on Waldo's paws before he goes out. Then the salt on the icy sidewalks won't hurt his feet."

"Right," said Mr. Wilson, "but we can't forget to wipe Waldo's paws with a damp towel when he comes back in."

"OK," agreed Karen. "I'll get the petroleum jelly and a towel."

"Good," replied Mr. Wilson.

A few minutes later Mr. Wilson carried the Christmas tree into the house. Karen and Waldo followed closely behind. Once inside the door Karen quickly picked up the damp towel and wiped Waldo's paws clean.

"Boy, look at how nice and clean Waldo's paws look now, Dad!" exclaimed Karen.

"Good job, Karen," called Mr. Wilson from the living room where the tree would be set up. "Don't forget to wipe down Waldo's fur with a dry towel. Then he'll warm up quicker. With the *temperature* below freezing, Waldo can get cold easily even though he's got lots of fur covering him."

"OK," said Karen, "I guess Waldo shouldn't stay outside long when it's so cold, right Dad?"

"Right," answered Mr. Wilson, "If Waldo lived outside instead of in the house, we'd have to build him a strong doghouse that stood up off the ground. It would have to keep him warm and dry even when it got very, very cold like today."

A while later Karen and Waldo walked into the living room. Now that Waldo was all dry and lying by the fireplace, Karen could help her parents decorate the Christmas tree.

Karen's Mom, Mrs. Wilson, sat in front of a big box marked, "Christmas Decorations." Mrs. Wilson pulled out of the box lots of brightly colored *ornaments*. There were little blue toy soldiers, red and white wooden candy canes, and glitter-covered paper snowflakes. Many other wonderful decorations waited to come out of the box, too.

Karen began to put the ornaments on the tree. "Hold on, Karen, don't hang the decorations or that tinsel on the very bottom branches. I don't want Emmie to think they're toys to play with or chew on. She may choke on them, or they may make her sick. Where is Emmie anyway?" asked Mrs. Wilson.

"I don't know," replied Karen. "I'll go find her. Oh, there she is! That silly kitty! She's trying to nibble on the *Poinsettia* leaves. Emmie, NO!" Karen hurried across the room and picked up her cat.

"We'll have to move that plant to the mantle over the fireplace so that she can't reach it. We'll also have to watch the holly and mistletoe. All those leaves could be poisonous if she or Waldo swallowed them," said Mrs. Wilson.

Moments later Mr. Wilson got up, stood back and looked at the Christmas tree with a smile. "Well, with this tree almost decorated, it's beginning to look like Christmas around here! Let's turn on the tree lights. Karen,

Holiday Hazards: Circle the safety hazards you find in this home.

could you plug in the tree, please?"

"Where is the plug, Dad?" asked Karen.

"Oh, I forgot. I hid the wires under the rug by the wall so that Waldo and Emmie wouldn't try to chew on them and maybe hurt themselves."

"I never knew there were so many things we'd have to watch out for at Christmas time," said Karen from under the tree.

"If we want to take good care of Waldo and Emmie, we have to be extra careful at holiday times. Like you said Karen, there are so many more things we have to watch out for so that Waldo and Emmie have a good Christmas too!" said Mr. Wilson.

Suddenly, the lights on the Christmas tree lit up the whole room. Waldo, Emmie and the Wilsons stared at the tree. Slowly, Mr. Wilson walked over to Mrs. Wilson, Karen, Waldo and Emmie. He leaned over and hugged them all, one at a time. Then he said in a low voice, "This is going to be the best and safest Christmas ever!"

VOCABULARY LIST

Rock Salt – Salt found in large chunks, used to melt ice on sidewalks, driveways and roads.

Veterinarian – A doctor who cares for sick and injured animals.

Petroleum Jelly – An oil-based jelly used to keep skin soft.

Temperature – How cold or hot something is.

Ornaments – Things that you hang on a tree to make it look pretty.

Poinsettia – A plant with large red leaves that look like flower petals.

PETS IN THE PICTURE

1

5

6

2

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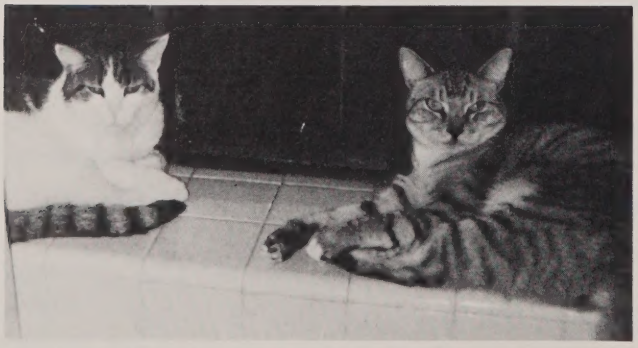

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1 Mary Vasel of Stoneham shares this photo of her "wonderful and loyal companion and friend 'Piqué'," who died last spring at the age of 13. "You think of the pain of the loss, but then you think of the wonderful years and love that dog gave you. I wanted to do something in memory of Piqué because he was so special to me," she writes, enclosing a donation to the League "for your work in helping animals, in memory of him."

2 "'Max' has turned out to be just terrific! He's as friendly as ever but is also housebroken (thank goodness), fun (very playful), beautiful now that he's been groomed—and all in all just what we wanted," writes Judy Kennedy of Boston who adopted "Max the Magnificent" at the League's Boston shelter this fall. Max's happy new owner wrote special letters of thanks to League staffers Sharon Copp and Alonzo Benson for helping her pick out Max and "for being so kind and encouraging."

3 'I'm sending you a picture of my beautiful cat 'Madam Queen'," writes Jacqueline Crowley of Brookline whose well-loved pet died this summer "when she was only two years young." Mrs. Crowley also sent the League a much-appreciated donation "in Madam's name to you."

4 "Siam" (right) relaxes with a friend at the home of owner Garth McPeak of Brighton who adopted the male tiger cat from the League in the fall of 1985. Siam is now three years old, and obviously thriving.

5 "'Larrie' is a product of the Salem Animal Rescue League," write Rob and Meredith Dorson/Anderton of Lynn. "We've owned her, and she us, for 3-1/2 years—I think that's Santa whom she's anticipating!"

6 From Short Hills, N.J., Tamara Lyons sends this photo of "Wellesley," adopted recently from the League and getting along well in his new home. "Even though I am no longer in Boston, I wish to remain a member of the League," she writes. "I believe you are doing a wonderful job."

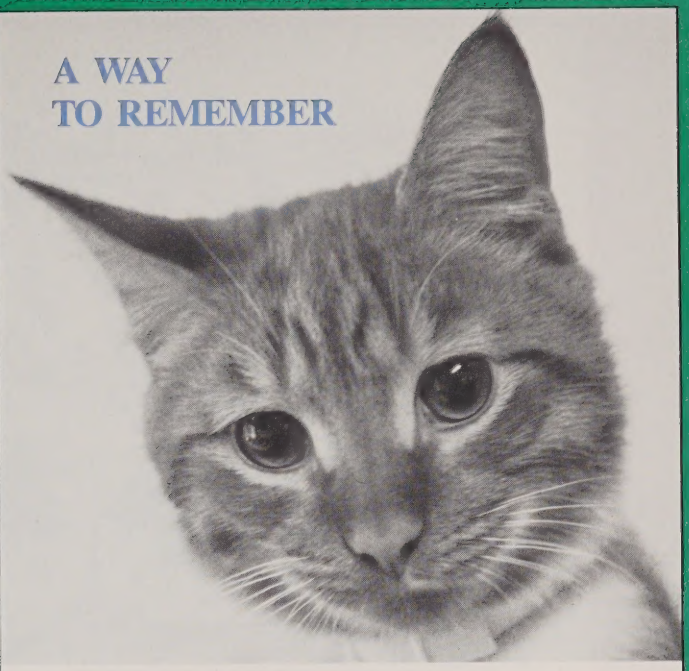
A gift of love at Christmas

The love and companionship of a pet makes home a warmer place, during the holidays and all year long. Make Christmas dreams come true, and enrich the life of someone you love, with a pet adoption gift certificate from the Animal Rescue League of Boston, available at any of the League's four adoption shelters.

Boston:	10 Chandler Street	**426-9170**
Dedham:	238 Pine Street	**326-0729**
E. Brewster:	Route 6A	**255-1030**
Salem:	378 Highland Avenue	**744-7910**

Animal Rescue League of Boston
A non-profit humane society helping animals since 1899.

A WAY TO REMEMBER



The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is
"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"
that is was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

Animal Rescue League of Boston
10 Chandler Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Moving?

Please allow two months for us to correct our mailing list.

Please let us know if you're planning to move so we can be sure that you receive OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS without interruption.

Old Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State_____ Zip_____

(please print or attach mailing label)

New Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State_____ Zip_____

We wish you a Merry Christmas . . .
and a Happy New Year.

Your friends at the
Animal Rescue League of Boston

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117